

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051209

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FROM TWINAM

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:OVIP, MASS

SUBJECT: YAR CHIEF OF STAFF VISIT

REF: SANA 760

1. RECEIVED YOUR 603 AND DOD/ISA LETTER ON SAME SUBJECT.
AM RESPONDING VIA THIS CHANNEL AS DOD HAS PRIMARY ACTION
AND WILL BE SENDING COORDINATED REPLY.

2. AS SEEN FROM HERE, NEED TO PAY INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT
FOR CHIEF OF STAFF GHASHMI CAUSES US PROBLEMS. AS YOU
KNOW, CU FUNDS CANNOT BE USED FOR MILITARY PERSONS AND
THUS ONLY POSSIBLE DEPARTMENT OF STATE-CONTROLLED SOURCE
WOULD BE IMET. THAT FUNDING IS VERY TIGHT, HOWEVER, AND
JUST COVERING 80,000 DOLS. SHORTFALL HAS PROVEN TO BE QUITE
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DIFFICULT. (WE HOPE TO HAVE YOUR RESPONSE ON THAT MATTER
LATER THIS WEEK.) IF WE WERE TO DIP INTO YAR'S ALLOCATION
FOR VIP TRIP AT VARIANCE WITH BASIC PURPOSE OF PROGRAM WE
RUN RISK OF UNDERMINING OUR CLAIM TO FALL-OUT IMET FUNDS
LATE IN FY 1977 AND TO THE DOLS. 500,000 REQUESTED FOR FY
1978.

3. WE APPRECIATE GREAT ADVANTAGES TO BE DRAWN FROM GHASHMI TRIP, BUT WE WONDER WHETHER IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO USE "PRIDE" FACTOR CITED REFTEL TO GET YARG VOLUNTARILY TO PAY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COSTS. FOR MANY YEARS NOW DOD HAS BEEN REQUIRING OFFICIAL RPT OFFICIAL VISITORS TO COVER THEIR OWN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL. EXAMPLES FROM AREA THIS FISCAL YEAR INCLUDE CHIEF OF STAFF OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN AND A MAJOR GENERAL FROM EGYPT. WHEN GHASHMI WAS IN LINE FOR AN IMET ORIENTATION VISIT, THAT WAS DIFFERENT SITUATION. IN EFFECT HE WAS TO BE TREATED AS GLORIFIED OFFICER TRAINEE. NOW THAT HE IS ONE OF NINE OFFICIAL VISITORS CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF HAS INVITED FROM AROUND WORLD THIS YEAR, GHASHMI HAS JOINED SELECT GROUP OF PERSONAGES FOR WHOM IT IS ASSUMED THEIR GOVERNMENTS WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE FUNDING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL EXPENSES. (AS PRACTICAL MATTER, YAR'S FUNDING OF TRAVEL AVOIDS CERTAIN COMPLICATION SUCH AS REQUIRED USE OF U.S. FLAG AIRLINE AND OUR INABILITY PAY PER DIEM AT STOPOVERS EN ROUTE TO CONUS.) IF GHASHMI WERE INFORMED OF OUR PRACTICE, PERHAPS HE WOULD WANT TO AVOID YAR'S BEING ONLY COUNTRY REQUIRING ASSISTANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT.

4. WHILE THE FOREGOING IS OUR VIEW, WE UNDERSTAND THIS PUTS YOU IN A DIFFICULT POSITION. CONSEQUENTLY, IF DOD IN END PROVES UNABLE TO COVER INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT AND YOU JUDGE PROVISION OF SUCH TRANSPORT TO BE OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE, WE WILL SUPPORT YOUR USING IMET FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE ADVISE.

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